

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claim 15 was previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1-14 and 16-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 11, 13, and 16-19 are amended. Claims 1 and 17 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Examiner Interview

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicant's Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Amendments to the Drawings

Two sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 2 and 3) are attached in order to add reference numerals to elements illustrated in the original drawings. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs [0035] and [0036] of the specification have been amended in order to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caprai (U.S. Patent 6,251,015) in view of Ritchie (U.S. Patent 4,637,605); and

claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caprai and Ritchie, and further in view of Pitarelli (U.S. Patent 3,964,564).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 17

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, **independent claim 1** has been amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including *inter alia*

“a control unit for said system being mounted in a position between linear portions of said pair of left and right main frames and under the centrally located main frame, the position of the control unit being such that a major portion of the control unit extends below where the sub-frames are connected to the left and right main frames.”

In addition, **independent claim 17** has been amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including *inter alia*

"wherein when said body is viewed in side view said linear portion of the left and right main frames can be seen to be oriented at an acute angle α with respect to the steering stem."

See FIGS. 3 and 4, for example, for support.

As conceded by the Examiner, Caprai fails to disclose sub-frames.

Regarding the Ritchie reference, as can be seen in the Examiner's annotated FIG. 1, a major portion of control box 3 is located above the pair of pipes which the Examiner's refers to as "pair of sub-frames." Thus, Ritchie cannot make up for the deficiency of Caprai to reject independent claim 1.

As can be seen in the Examiner's Ritchie annotated FIG. 1, the elements referred to by the Examiner as "central main frame" and "left and right main frames" are parallel to each other. Thus, Ritchie cannot make up for the deficiency of Caprai to reject independent claim 17.

At least for the reasons described above, no combination of Caprai and Ritchie can teach or suggest the combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 17. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 11, 13, 16, 18 and 19 have been amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

For example, **dependent claim 13** recites

“a casing of the control unit is centrally disposed between the left main frame and the right main frame such that a space is provided between left and right sides of the casing and the corresponding linear portion of the left and right main frames.”

Caprai fails to disclose a control unit with spaces of left and right sides.

Ritchie fails to disclose that control box 3 has spaces between the front forks on left and right sides of the control box 3.

Thus, **dependent claim 13** contains allowable subject matter.

For example, **dependent claim 16** recites

wherein the control unit includes a casing with a width W in a lateral direction of the body, a height H parallel to the linear portions of the left and right main frames, and a thickness T orthogonal to the width W and the height H, and

wherein the height H and the thickness T have the relationship $H > T$.

Neither Caprai nor Ritchie teach or suggest the combination of elements in claim 16.

Thus, **dependent claim 16** contains allowable subject matter.

As other examples, each of **dependent claims 18 and 19** recites

“wherein a forward end of the centrally located main frame disposed farthest away from the operator is connected to a cross frame bridging between forward ends of the sub-frames,

wherein a front face of the control unit, which is located rearwardly and separately of the cross frame, faces a rear side of the cross frame, and

a rear face of the control unit faces away from the operator.”

Caprai fails to teach a cross frame. As for Ritchie, the front face of video game (control unit) 3 certainly does not face a rear face of any part of the exercise bike 5.

Thus, **dependent claims 18 and 19** contain allowable subject matter.

All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

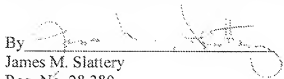
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: September 24, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments: Two sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 2 and 3)